On November 1, 1999,

the Illinois State Police Air Operations Bureau will celebrate its 40th year of aerial police support. With a long, proud history, early activities began in 1951 when the first actual air-to-ground operations were conducted using Department of Aeronautics aircraft and pilots. These initial activities clearly demonstrated the benefits of using aircraft; however, practical police work from the air did not materialize in the Land of Lincoln until eight years later.

In 1958, Trooper Norman Halliday, our first trooper pilot, repeatedly demonstrated the value of an aerial platform using his personal airplane. These creative demonstrations eventually led to budget approval for the purchase of ISP aircraft. The following November, Illinois became only the third state police agency in the nation to use airplanes when three single-engine and one twin-engine aircraft were pressed into service.

Today, the ISP operates a fleet of four single-engine airplanes, one twin-engine airplane and one helicopter. The airplanes are strategically based in Carbondale, Springfield and West Chicago. The helicopter operates from the Illinois National Guard Armory at Chicago Midway Airport.

Fixed Wing Operations

ISP airplanes are used for a variety of missions, including airspeed checks, photography, manhunts, surveillances, missing person searches, marijuana eradication, commercial vehicle enforcement programs and executive and prisoner transportation. The slow-flight characteristics of our single-engine airplanes make them extremely useful for police applications. Also, their ability to remain aloft for long periods is particularly useful for lengthy missions. Our services are available to any agency with a legitimate need for an aerial platform by contacting the airplane commander, the bureau headquarters or your local Illinois State Police District.

Helicopter Operations

On January 1, 1995, the Illinois State Police began a helicopter program, known as Air One. Serving all police agencies in Cook and neighboring counties, Air One compliments fixed-wing operations by deploying a helicopter to fly missions better adaptable to a rotorcraft platform. The high-visibility of the helicopter, equipped with a 30 million candlepower searchlight, creates a successful deterrent to criminal activities. Air One is also fitted with forward looking infra red thermal imaging equipment (FLIR) enabling crew members to detect the presence of people or objects by sensing heat differential. Most helicopter missions are requests for immediate assistance from

local agencies. Additionally, Air One crews monitor emergency police frequencies and can usually respond to a situation within minutes. Air One can be reached by calling the Air One office, making a request over the Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN) or calling District Chicago.

The outlook for the future of ISP air operations is bright. Expanding programs, additional personnel and a commitment to community policing standards make the bureau available for a wider array of missions to an ever-expanding number of users. The four decades of success enjoyed by the Air Operations Bureau is a direct result of the dedication and professionalism of its personnel. No matter the mission, bureau members meet the challenge with a "can-do" team spirit, continuing to "serve and protect" from the air.

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Illinois State Police Air-Operations Bureau

1100 North Airport Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62707
217-782-2206

Air One Helicopter Unit
Chicago
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Dupage Airport
West Chicago
630-584-3563

Carbondale Airport
Carbondale
618-529-5171

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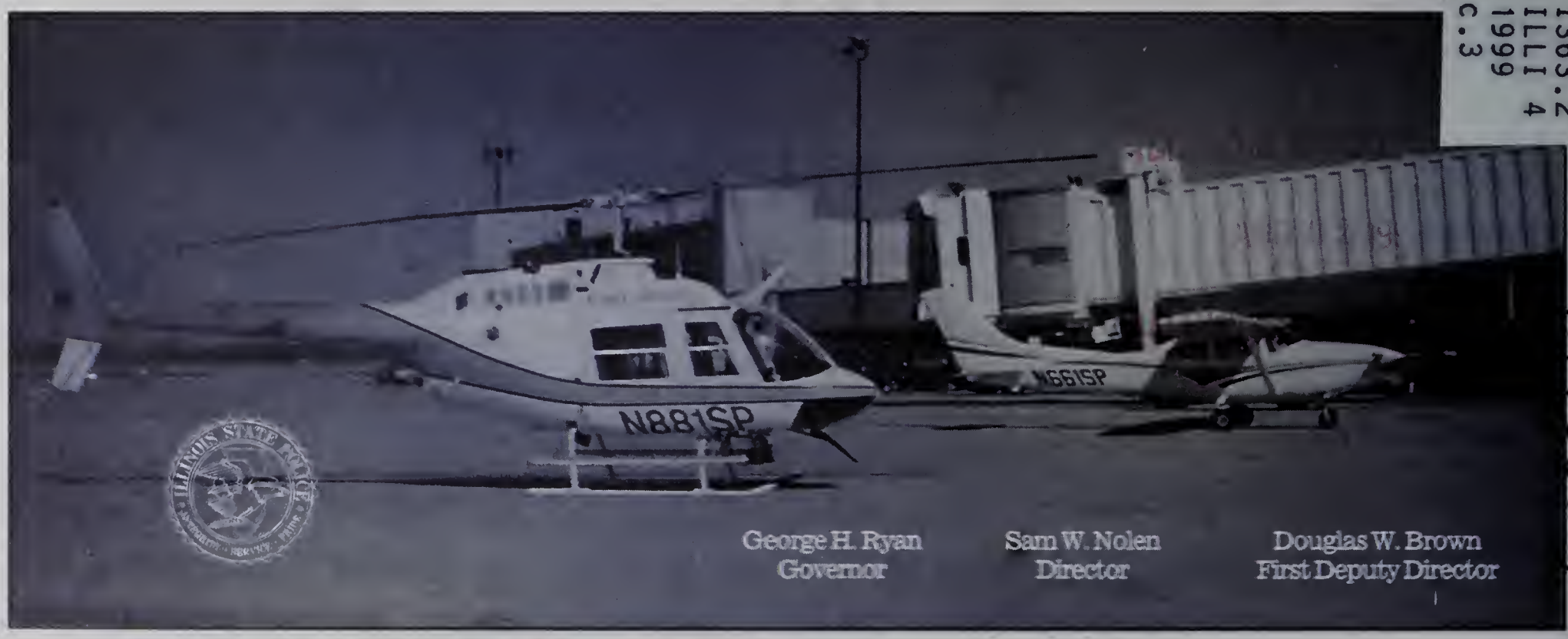

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